

Strengthening Families Storytime: Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development

THE MESSAGE

During your storytime, try to deliver the following message to adults:

Having accurate information about child development and appropriate expectations for children's behavior at different ages can help parents understand their own children and develop positive relationships. Even though children don't come with instruction manuals, having research-backed information about child development can help anyone become a better parent or caregiver.

Your library can provide access to books on child development and classes or programs to help improve your parenting skills.

STORYTIME THEMES

A storytime that focuses on different ways caregivers can parent a child can help families develop successful strategies.

Possible themes/titles for this type of storytime include:

- Positive Parenting
- Caregivers Can
- Growing Together
- My Family Loves Me

BOOKS

- *Baby Dance* by Ann Taylor
- *I Heart You* by Meg Flemming
- *With My Daddy: A Book of Love and Caring* by Jo Witek
- *No Matter What* by Debi Gliori
- *The Very Cranky Bear* by Nick Blanc
- *The Chocolate-Covered-Cookie Tantrum* by Deborah Blumenthal
- *Saturday* by Oge Mora
- *Harriet, You'll Drive Me Wild!* by Mem Fox

Reading books about adults who successfully parent challenging children can help families address issues in developmentally appropriate ways.

ACTIVITIES

Try incorporating activities where caregivers and children can bond.

- Lapsit or fingerplay rhymes
- Children and caregivers build together with blocks
- Take turns telling stories

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